(b) the details of the activities of these centres;

(c) whether these rehabilitation centres are functioning properly; and

(d) if not, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline their functioning?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). No rehabilitation Centre for the war widows presently exists in the State of Bihar. However, four Vocational Training Centres have recently been approved for being set up at Patna, Bhojpur, Ranchi and Chaibasa in Bihar to provide training to ex-servicemen/widows in activities like stitching, typing, embroidery etc.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

[*English*]

5088. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to regularise the services of pigmy deposit collectors as regular employees of the respective scheduled banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the other benefits that are proposed to be given to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). Indian banks' Association (IBA) has reported that in terms of the Award given by the Industrial Tribunal, Hyderabad in I.D. 14/80 deposit collectors have to be given option to get absorbed in regular cadres in the banks after passing a selection test as part time employees. Those who do not opt for regular appointment have to be given higher commission and other benefits. The I.B.A has also reported that on behalf of the affected member banks it filed a writ petition in the Andhra Pradesh High Court against the Award and has obtained a stay. At present, the matter is sub-judice.

Strike in General Insurance Corporation and its Subsidiaries

5089. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers working in the General Insurance Corporation of India and its four subsidiaries;

(b) whether there was any strike in the offices of General Insurance Corporation and its subsidiaries on March 4, 1992; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government against those employees who participated in the strike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) 14,567

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Some of the employees of the companies were on unauthorised absence on 4th March, 1992. The GIC had advised its Subsidiaries to effect wage-cut in respect of officers who were on unauthorised absence on that day.

Development of West Coast Canal

5090. SHRIMATI SUSHEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in developing the West Coast Canal between Kollam, Kochi, Kottapuram section along with Chempakkara canal and Udyogmandal canal as National Waterway;